

New Trees for Riverfront & Reservoir Parks

June 2020

Area residents and community organizations typically contribute many hours of volunteer labor toward the beautification and upkeep of the City's parks, particularly in spring time. This year COVID-19 has made gatherings of volunteer groups impossible, but the City Forester was able to work out a way to engage volunteers in tree planting efforts, while maintaining social distancing.

Over a three-day period May 8-10, each individual or household was assigned a separate start time and location at which to meet with the City Forester for an introduction and guidance. Each party was then directed to specific assigned trees to be planted, at a distance from other workers. In this way, 29 volunteers from 16 different households planted 51 trees—35 at Reservoir Park and 16 at Riverfront Park. This was in addition to 35 trees planted previously over several days by a City crew, for a total of 86 new trees in our parks this spring.

Twenty-five different species of trees were planted. Name tags are being installed on each one to identify the kind of tree, a little about it, and the benefits it provides us. A similar volunteer planting (without social distancing) was organized last fall, where trees were planted at Italian lake and at most of the small neighborhood parks. For more information, or to volunteer for future tree planting events in the City, please contact Ellen Roane at earoane@Harrisburgpa.gov or (717)512-8255.

Attached are photos of a few of the volunteers who were able to help.



Zac and Rachel



Ron and friend



Sasha, Pamela, and Lauryn



Alice and Robert



Pat & Jeff